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Economic Affairs Interim Committee

60th Montana Legislature

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COMMITTEE STAFF

ANDREW GEIGER, Lead Staff
BART CAMPBELL, Staff Attorney
CLAUDIA (CJ) JOHNSON, Secretary

AGENDA

Economic Affairs Interim Committee

November 8th, 2007 8:00 a.m.
VA Hospital Auditorium
210 South Winchester
Miles City, Montana 59301

(all agenda times are approximate)

- 8:00 a.m. --Call to order
--approval of minutes from the September 25th conference call
--Comments from the Chair and Vice-Chair on the Committee's choice of Miles City for the EAIC meeting.
- 8:15 **Value-Added Agriculture in Eastern Montana**
A panel discussion relating to SJR 13, a study of value added agriculture, speaking to the issue in Montana generally, but with a special focus on initiatives and issues in the southeastern region of the state. Topics will include farm-to market initiatives, far-to-college initiatives, best practices from other states, large-scale value added agriculture, and public/private interactions.
- Panelists:
Bruce Smith, Glendive extension agent
Neva Hassanein, U. of M. Professor
Jessica Babcock, Grow Montana
Gene Buxcel, Dawson County Economic Development Council
Bruce Bainbridge, Dawson County Community College
Anheuser-Busch representative (invited)
- 10:00 Public comment
- 11:45 Instructions to staff, Geiger

- 12:00 p.m. Working lunch (provided for committee members)
Presentation: **Wind Energy on Development in Eastern Montana**
Mike Carlson, Eastern Plains RC&D
- 12:30 Break
- 1:00 Administrative rules review, Campbell
- 1:15 **Economic Development at the Local Level**
Fitting the Pieces Together
A panel discussion involving local economic development organizations, local elected officials, and business leaders on how their organizations fit into the economic development puzzle. Areas for consideration will include the role of community and infrastructure development in economic development, the balance of economic growth with economic sustainability, the public/private relationship, state initiatives, and competitiveness with other states.
- Panelists:
Joe Whalen, Miles City Mayor
Jack Nesbit, Custer County Commissioner (Chairmen)
Jim Atchison, Executive Director of Southeast MT Development Corp.
Butch Krutzfeldt, Owner, Montana Feed and Fuel
Kent Williams, Miles City Area Economic Development Council
Mike Carlson, Eastern Plains RC&D
- 3:00 Public comment
- 3:45 Instructions to staff, Geiger
Date of next meeting
- 4:00 Adjourn